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DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

Vol. XI No. 17 August 31st 1962 Price: 15 Pf, 5c, 3d.

MOB NEARS BRINK

West Berlin Rowdies: "Give Us Guns"

West Berlin rowdies and neo-nazis, whipped up by the West Berlin press and leading politicians, rioted on August 17th and the following days. They stoned Soviet military buses carrying the honour guard to the Soviet War Memorial in the British sector, attacked American soldiers, and made repeated onslaughts on the frontier of the German Democratic Republic which runs through the centre of Berlin.

West Berlin police only intervened in force to control the mob after West Berlin private property had been damaged, and after the three western commandants in Berlin had made strong representations to West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt pointing out that they could not allow mob law to jeopardise top-level negotiations on the West Berlin problem. In the early stages of the rioting Mayor Willy Brandt had publicly declared his solidarity with the mob.

Five days after the rioting started the West Berlin authorities produced the extraordinary explanation that the disturbances were due to "Communist agents provocateurs" but they were unable to produce any evidence to support their claim.

The riots began after a shooting incident on the frontier of the German Democratic Republic. GDR frontier guards saw a man moving in the closed frontier zone, and challenged him. When the man failed to stop, they opened fire, wounding him. He fell to the ground a few yards inside GDR territory.

At this point, West Berlin police appeared on the scene, and interfered with attempts to remove the wounded man by aiming their rifles, adopting a threatening attitude, and throwing smoke grenades. When reinforcements had been brought up on the GDR side of the border, the wounded man was taken to hospital, where he subsequently died.

Observers in Berlin recalled that in recent months two GDR frontier guards have been murdered in cold blood by West Berliners, one by shots from West Berlin police fired across the frontier, and one by a West Berlin agent who penetrated the frontier and shot down a frontier guard who asked to see his papers.

The attitude of the West Berlin rioters was summed up in the slogans which they repeatedly shouted: "We want weapons"; "The Americans must shoot" and "Bring the Bundeswehr to West Berlin".

The type of provocative statement made by West Berlin and West German politicians was summed up on August 21st by Herr von Hase, official West German spokesman, who stated: "We do not recognise the existence of the frontier in Berlin". The West German newspaper "Bild" incited to violence on August 15th by stating "The wall in Berlin can only be removed by an armed resistance movement in the Zone (GDR, ed.) acting like the OAS in Algeria."

The dangers presented by the rioting of neo-nazi elements in West Berlin was stressed by many British and American newspapers. The "Washington Post" stated on August 21st:

"It should be obvious to all sober hands in Berlin that the emotions stirred ... are not a safe guide to international policy on the delicate Berlin issue. The demonstrators were so wrought up that they jeered the American forces ... for not 'shooting back'. They ought to realise that shooting by the American forces in a situation of this kind could easily provoke further shooting by the East Germans and their Soviet supporters. Where would the shooting end?

"Berlin cannot be saved by igniting the powder keg. The stern realities of Berlin cannot be changed by wishful thinking or by demonstrations in the streets ... It would be tragic to have the problem complicated by serious friction in West Berlin itself."

Writing in the London "New Statesman" of August 24th, Labour MP Richard Crossman stated:

"... must we really permit a mob of hysterical West Berliners to drag us to the brink of war so that we can start the negotiations under duress which we should have begun of our own accord three years ago? I believe that both President Kennedy and Mr Macmillan have long since realized that the right policy would be to accept the existence of the two Germanies and negotiate a settlement based upon it – even if this involves overriding the protests of Bonn and West Berlin. But they can start the

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THE WEST GERMAN STORY

(cont. from front page)

MOB NEARS BRINK

negotiations over the heads of the Germans only if public opinion is alerted to the danger of drifting into war.

"Here a special responsibility rests on the British Labour party. Our spokesmen should be crusading publicly for the policies that the President and Prime Minister are still forced officially to disavow. Instead of applauding Herr Brandt's verbal assaults on the Wall, we should tell him frankly that it has become one of the pre-conditions of peaceful coexistence in Berlin and spell out the case for recognizing the GDR – which he knows to be valid but dare not admit. The only chance of preserving the freedom of the West Berliners is to drag them back from the edge of the pit they are digging for themselves."

Political commentators in East Berlin pointed out that the temporary breakdown of law and order in West Berlin emphasised the fact that it was more urgent than ever for the powers involved to reach a solution of the West Berlin problem, a solution which would involve recognition by all sides of the realities of the situation and the existence and inviolability of the present frontiers. "Hitler started the Second World War by refusing to recognise international frontiers and inventing stories about atrocities committed by frontier guards," a GDR government spokesman pointed out.

On August 24th the Soviet Union protested strongly to the United States regarding West Berlin attacks on Soviet busses in which three Soviet soldiers were injured. The note stated:

"If such provocative acts by fascist and militarist elements are repeated, the Soviet Union will have to take the necessary measures to guarantee the security of the Soviet personnel."

KOMMANDATURA ABOLISHED

The Soviet Government announced on August 22nd that after consultations with the Government of the German Democratic Republic it had been decided to abolish the Soviet Kommandatura in Berlin, and to do away with the post of Soviet Commandant.

The Soviet Kommandatura was a left-over vestige of the Four-Power administration in the whole of Berlin in the immediate post-war period. Since 1955 the functions of the Kommandatura have been practically confined to supervising, on the West Berlin frontier, the passage of western military traffic; providing the guard company for main war criminals in Spandau Prison in the British Sector; and mounting the honour company for the Soviet War Memorial, also in the British Sector. For the time being these functions will be taken over by the command of the Soviet troops stationed in Germany.

Explaining the decision, the Soviet Ministry of Defence announced:

"The military commandants of the USA, Britain and France in West Berlin, which for all practical purposes has been converted into a NATO base, have been trying to exploit the existence of the Soviet Kommandatura in order to intervene in the internal affairs of the sovereign and independent German Democratic Republic and its capital Berlin. They have attempted to create the impression that there is still a Four-Power Kommandatura in Berlin, although it is a matter of public knowledge that this ceased to exist in 1948 as a result of the separatist acts of the Western Powers.

"It is clear that the Commandants of the Western Powers do this in order to use the occupation regime in West Berlin as a cloak for their NATO base.

"The abolition of the Soviet Kommandatura in Berlin is in line with the consistent policy of the Soviet Union to abolish the vestiges of the Second World War in Europe, to conclude a German peace treaty, and to normalise the situation in West Berlin on this basis."

On August 23rd the Defence Ministry of the GDR announced that Major General Helmut Poppe had been appointed City Commandant of Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic. The frontier guards in Berlin, and other installations of the People's Army were placed under his command.

General Poppe, aged 36, is an electrician by trade. He joined the People's Police in 1948, and transferred to the People's Army when it was formed in 1956.

GDR PROTESTS BORDER SHOOTING

On August 14th West German frontier guards shot and killed an officer of the GDR frontier guard on the border between West Germany and the German Democratic Republic. The GDR Government filed a strong protest on the shooting with the West German Government; the West German Government returned the protest unread.

The GDR note described the circumstances of the shooting as follows:

"On August 14th, under cover of a militarily-disposed unit of the Federal Frontier Guard, two members of the Frontier Guard illegally crossed the state frontier of the German Democratic Republic. Captain Rudi Arnstadt of the frontier troops of the GDR drew the attention of the two men to the fact that they had infringed the frontier. They left the territory of the GDR, but returned a short time later accompanied by a captain. When they refused to leave the territory of the GDR, a warning shot was fired in the air. The frontier provocateurs replied with aimed volleys from rapid-fire weapons; Captain Arnstadt of the GDR was murdered by a shot in the head.

"Thanks only to the coolness and discipline of the GDR frontier troops, an armed conflict on a larger scale was avoided.

"Careful investigations on the spot show that the murder of the GDR captain took place on the territory of the GDR."

The GDR note demanded that those responsible should be punished, and that measures be taken to avoid a repetition of such acts of aggression.

LAOS, IRIAN – NOW W. BERLIN

The peaceful negotiated solutions of the problems of Laos and West Irian could provide a pattern for a solution of the West Berlin problem, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchov suggested in a speech in Moscow on August 18th.

"These two examples show that complicated international problems can be settled by peaceful negotiation, instead of war", Khrushchov said. "The same methods should be used to bring about the signing of a German peace treaty, the acceptance of the German Democratic Republic

and the German Federal Republic in the United Nations, and the creation of a West Berlin Free City.

"The main thing is to deal with the left-overs of World War Two. These remnants include such problems as the abolition of the occupation regime in West Berlin, the liquidation of the NATO bases in West Berlin, and the withdrawal of the troops of the Western Powers from West Berlin.

"In the 17 years which have followed the capitulation of Hitlerite Germany, many things have changed, and the right of the Western Powers to maintain troops in West Berlin has long received a different character. Today the Western troops are part of the aggressive NATO block. That is why the imperialists cling obstinately to the stationing of their troops in West Berlin.

"The imperialists claim that the occupation troops are necessary in order to guarantee to the people of West Berlin the existing social and political system. This is an obvious lie, since nobody threatens the existing system in West Berlin.

"We have declared repeatedly that we recognise the right of all peoples to choose their own social and political system; the Soviet Government has declared repeatedly that the people of West Berlin should have the social and political system which they have chosen. Naturally the people of West Berlin must have normal communications with the other states of the world.

"The imperialists claim that the people of West Berlin need occupation troops to guarantee their freedom. We regard this as an absurd argument. We agree to guarantees, but these guarantees must be underwritten by the signature of a peace treaty. If this is not sufficient, then we would agree to the provisional stationing in West Berlin of troops under the flag of the United Nations.

"If the Western powers do not agree, then we shall have no alternative but to sign a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic, and thus end the state of war. On this basis the occupation regime in West Berlin, which is situated in the middle of the German Democratic Republic, would lose its validity. No imperialist threats will prevent us from taking this course. The signature of a peace treaty after the ending of a war is not only the right, but also the duty of all states which took part in the war."

GRIM FAIRY TALES

BBC Sends Hymns of Hate

By the Editor

The British Broadcasting Corporation runs a special hate programme beamed at the German Democratic Republic, and financed by the British taxpayer out of the £6 million of government funds allotted every year to the external services of the BBC.

The motto of the BBC is "Nation Shall Speak Peace Unto Nation", but the special German-language programme for the German Democratic Republic (always described as the "Soviet Zone", a title which was last applicable in 1949), consists mainly of a mixture of hate propaganda and childish fairy tales.

In recent broadcasts, political leaders in the GDR have been compared unfavourably with Hitler and Himmler; people in the GDR have been told they live worse than Negro slaves in the USA in 1860; and indirect suggestions are made that GDR citizens should sabotage production.

It is important to point out that this is the sole BBC programme which makes open and uncamouflaged attacks on foreign states and political leaders. In a vague attempt to preserve the BBC's claim to impartiality, some of the wildest attacks are made in the form of alleged "listeners' letters".

Here are a few excerpts from some programmes broadcast in recent months:

"If we can believe books such as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin', then the citizens of the Ulbricht state are in about the same situation as the Negro slaves in the southern states of the USA one hundred years ago." **(May 31st)**

"Conditions are similar to those in early capitalism. The shortage of labour is to be made good by the employment of children." **(June 20th)**

"The increasing shortages are for many people here the sole great hope. If everybody was not worried about the shortages then the Socialist Unity Party would find enough people to believe in its teachings of progress." **(June 22nd)**

(Editor's Note: The first two quotations above are sheer nonsense. The third, alleged to be a comment from an East German listener, is an indirect incitement to sabotage production, thus increasing shortages.)

"The leaders of the Socialist Unity Party are not worth the powder to shoot them with. The Ulbricht system is exactly similar to Hitler's Third Reich." **(April 4th)**

"You, Herr Ulbricht, have brought the greatest misfortune to the German people. Your hands are sticky with blood." **(April 19th)**

"In the case of Ulbricht there is an even greater contrast between his words and his deeds than there was in the case of political monsters such as Hitler and Himmler." **(May 21st)**

"The time has come to see this hated system lying on the ground. Remain tough, do not give in!" **(June 15th)**

"The gentlemen of the workers' and peasants' state should be ashamed to slander and insult highly-educated West German statesmen. This simply shows that the Communist camp consists of complete gangsters." **(May 25th)**

Legal Aspects of W. Berlin

By Professor Quincy Wright

(The "American Journal of International Law" recently published these legal notes by Professor Quincy Wright of the University of Virginia on the West Berlin problem. Professor Wright, recognised authority in his field, is a member of the board of editors of the "Journal". Without identifying itself with all his views, GERMAN REPORT presents this condensation for those readers who are interested in the legal aspects of the problem.)

There seems to be no ground for legal objection to Soviet recognition of, and conclusion of a peace treaty with, East Germany. While premature recognition of a new state is forbidden by international law, recognition of a de facto state is permissible. The United States, after recognising several Latin American Republics, asserted this position in answer to objections from Spain, and it followed the policy of recognising de facto governments and states until 1913 ...

There can be little question that East Germany is a de facto state. It is therefore the right and ... the duty of Russia and other states to recognise it unless it was established in violation of international obligations. By the Declaration of the United Nations of January 1st 1942 the Allies agreed not to make separate peace, and by the Potsdam Agreement of 1945 they provided for a united, disarmed and neutralised Germany These agreements, however, have been violated by all parties, notably by the West, in recognising the German Federal Republic, making treaties with it, arming it, and admitting it to NATO. The West can hardly invoke these treaties against the Soviet Union. The latter would seem to have as much right to recognise and make peace with East Germany as the West had to recognise and make peace with West Germany.

Can it be said that such recognitions would be, or have been, contrary to the Stimson doctrine, the Atlantic Charter, which declared against conquest and territorial changes unless in accord with the wishes of the population, and the principle of "self-determination of peoples" in the United Nations Charter? ... The West has argued that the status of East Germany should be determined by a free vote of its people as was that of West Germany ... In the principles and practices of international law, however, it has never been held that recognition of a de facto state or government was illegitimate unless the population has expressly approved. It has been assumed that acquiescence by the population over so long a period of time that the government of the new state could be regarded as established in fact, justified recognition. Since the West paid little attention to the pledges of the Atlantic Charter in disposing of German territory, at least temporarily in the surrender agreement, argument based on that instrument is weak ...

If it is assumed that the Soviet Union can properly recognise East Germany as fully sovereign, the legal issue is: What would be the legal status of West Berlin and access to it in case it does so? ...

The basic principle of international law is mutual respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of sovereign states. This principle is also asserted in the United Nations Charter. If East Germany should be recognised as a fully sovereign state, it would be entitled to full control of its territory, except insofar as it is bound by treaties, by special customs, or by general international law. West Berlin, however, has never been considered a part of East Germany. Its separate status has been recognised by agreement and custom. Legally, therefore, it would remain an enclave, one hundred miles within East German territory. The Western demand for the continuance of this status, therefore, seems justified.

The problem of access is, however, different. The West would have to show that agreement and custom had established a servitude *(dictionaries unhelpfully define this as a legal term meaning "subjection of tenement to an easement", ed.)* on East German territory which continues in spite of transfer of the Soviet Union's formal occupation to de jure sovereignty of an East German state. *(Professor Wright then quotes legal precedents, ed.)* On the basis of this and other precedents, the Western Powers could probably show that their access to West Berlin constitutes a servitude which East Germany would be obliged to respect if it became independent.

It must be noticed that in the Portuguese-Indian case, the International Court of Justice held that Portugal had only "civilian" not "military" access; that India had the right and duty to maintain order in the area ...

It would appear that, once the Soviet Union had recognised East Germany and made a peace treaty, its legal responsibility in regard to access to West Berlin would end, though doubtless it would continue under a moral obligation to induce East Germany to observe its legal obligations in the matter. The West would have to argue the case with East Germany as Portugal had to argue its case with India. Great Britain, former sovereign of India, was not legally involved.

East Germany, so long as it remains under a Communist government, will probably wish to prevent the drain of its population through West Berlin to West Germany and the anti-Communist propaganda from that city, whether by radio or merely by the model which the city presents. On August 13th 1961 East Germany cut off the refugee flow from East to West Berlin and limited all travel across the border ...

It would, therefore, appear that if West Berlin is to continue as an area of Western civilisation, other solutions, perhaps a return to the Potsdam Agreement providing for a disarmed and neutralised Germany, should be considered. With such a solution the two Germanys would probably tend to come together and a united Germany would probably have a Western orientation. This solution, however, would mean the permanent withdrawal of West Germany from NATO, inspected disarmament for the whole of Germany, and acceptance by the West of the Oder-Neisse line and the de facto governments of both Germanys ...

This, however, is a political question. From the point of view of international law, it would seem that the West cannot object to Soviet recognition of East Germany, but should enjoy continuous access, at least civilian, to West Berlin, which would not become legally a part of East Germany. Both the West and the Soviet Union should follow the precepts of the United Nations Charter requiring that they settle their international disputes by peaceful means and refrain from threat or use of force.

In accordance with those precepts, a reference of the matter to the International Court of Justice in case East Germany is recognised as an independent state and interferes with the present situation, would seem desirable ...

("American Journal of International Law", Volume 55)

US Magazine Reveals:

BONN INVADES MADISON AVENUE

Who runs West Germany's expensive foreign propaganda machine in the United States? Some fascinating side-lights are given by this article, here condensed, from the US newsweekly "Newsweek" of July 30th:

Americans have learned to shrug off blaring TV commercials, screaming billboards, and other aspects of the hard sell. But what about the subliminal pitch for a foreign government, served up innocently as news, entertainment, or patriotic self-interest?

The Congress of the United States began to look into a new breed of foreign agent — the foreign lobbyist — last week. From the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee came a fourteen-page preliminary report on what were ponderously described as "non-diplomatic activities of representatives of foreign governments." But the story was no spy story. Rather, it set the stage for next month's committee investigation into the lawyers, public relations men, writers, and movie men — mostly Americans — who promote foreign causes in the U. S. ...

Julius Klein of Chicago is a "foreign agent," too.

Over a luncheon of matjes herring and steak and onions in Bonn last week, Klein, who was visiting the West German capital for Julius Klein Public Relations, Inc., was notably coy when asked who made up the group of West German industrialists and politicians that paid his agency $128,200 last year to represent them. The retired National Guard major general and ex-Chicago newspaperman would only say that his firm was hired to "bring before the American people the issue of Germany's position *vis à vis* Soviet aggression, supporting the position of the western bloc and NATO." But Klein, who has first-rate political connections in the United States, let slip the fact that Hermann Abs is the king-pin in the German group of sponsors. Abs, a director of the Deutsche Bank and a host of other organizations, is one of the men closest to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and represents the financial wing of the Christian Democratic Union, Adenauer's political party.

(Hermann Abs, a top leader of the Deutsche Bank and the war criminal I.G.Farben cartel under Hitler, was Number 1 on the list of "Leading Industrialists, Financiers and Economic Figures of Nazi Germany" drawn up for prosecution by the U.S. Army in 1946, ed.)

Klein himself says: "The German Government undoubtedly contributes to the group I represent and I advise Adenauer personally."

The Federal Republic of Germany's official agent in the United States is the Roy Bernard Co., which drew $113,483 from the German Government last year and also serves the European Economic Community ($16,952) and city-state of Berlin (West Berlin, ed.) ($138,132) accounts. "We are a channel for the normal flow of information in accurate and standard form," explained Roy Blumenthal, chairman of the board and director of foreign accounts. "We are a source of information."

The Bernard public relations agency paid nationally-syndicated labor columnist Victor Riesel a total of $1,605 in 1960 and 1961 for what Blumenthal calls "a travel convenience." He added: "This is pretty common when a writer or photographer doesn't have the funds to cover a particular story, especially with smaller papers. Take, for example, a paper with a limited budget ..." Said Riesel: "I have not accepted any subsidy ... This sum was only to pay a very small part of my expense ..."

Through Bernard, Germany also paid veteran radio newsman H. R. Baukhage $50 for each weekly broadcast of German editorials, distributed to more than 40 radio stations. Baukhage quit the program in the spring, sorry that he ever became involved, he says now.

With trade between the United States and West Germany booming, it's easy to see why West Germans, who once were enemies of the U.S., will pay cold cash for a good "image" in America.

Footnote: One of the West German propagandists in the United States is none other than Hans Globke Jr., the West German news service "Parlamentarisch-Politischer Pressedienst" disclosed on August 7th. Hans Globke Jr., who works in the office of Julius Klein (see above) is the son of Chancellor Adenauer's notorious State Secretary Globke, author of the anti-Semitic nazi "Nuremberg Laws".

Home Town Spurns Writer Who Described Murder of Jews

The City Council of Wuerzburg, West Germany, refused in late July to name a street in honour of the town's most famous son, writer Leonhard Frank, because he had described how nazis had murdered many of the town's Jews during the Hitler period. According to one of the city councillors, his description had "brought discredit to Wuerzburg and defamed the city".

Leonhard Frank, who died last year in Munich, was born 80 years ago. He was one of the most famous modern German novelists; because of his vigorous opposition to war and fascism, his books were amongst the first to be burned by the nazis in 1933. He emigrated from Germany and lived in France, the USA and other countries during the war. Many of his books have been translated into English; among them are "The Robber Band", "Carl and Anna", "The Singers", "Three of the Three Million" and "Mathilde".

The Government of the GDR awarded the West German writer the National Prize in 1955; this fact was also used by the Wuerzburg City Council as an excuse for not honouring him. The final vote was 23 to 15 against naming a street after the writer; instead it was decided to put a small plaque on the wall of the house where he was born. After the vote, the town's trade unionists agreed to name their new trade union building "Leonhard Frank House".

Many cities of the GDR, including Leipzig and East Berlin, have now decided to name streets after Leonhard Frank. His books were always very popular in the GDR.

Old People in the GDR

By Allen Mann

After the war, the old age security system in the eastern part of Germany had to start up again completely from scratch, for all pension funds from previous years had been shot away in the war. To make matters worse, the war had left a very high proportion of pensioners — one for every five working people — plus a large number of invalids, orphans and other people in need of aid. And, of course, the economy of the country was at first a complete chaos.

In 1947, the whole social security system was reconstituted and all the old provincial systems were unified. Under the new system, all workers and clerical employees are covered by a national Social Insurance Fund, administered by the Free German Trade Union Federation. Other groups — professionals, cooperative farmers, craftsmen, artists and other self-employed persons who are not trade union members are covered by the nationally-owned German Insurance Association.

The present retirement age in the GDR is at 60 for women and 65 years for men, and in order to receive a regular pension, the pensioner must have worked and paid contributions for at least 15 years.

Average old age pensions in 1960 amounted to 151 marks, with a minimum for single pensioners of 124 marks a month. (Average wages in the GDR vary between 400 and 500 marks). This is not very much money, it is true; but then, the minimum in 1947 was 30 marks, there have been six pension increases since then and a seventh one is planned for sometime in the next few years.

Pensions are reckoned on a basis of the number of years worked and wages earned, added to a 30 mark base rate. If a worker, in his whole life, earned wages amounting to a total of 120,000 marks, for example, he will receive on retirement 1% of that every year, that is

1200 marks, or monthly	100 marks
plus the base rate	30 marks
plus six base rate increases	59 marks
= a monthly pension of	189 marks

For miners, the pension is higher — 2.5% of the wages on which the miner paid contributions. The average pension for underground workers is 284.70 marks a month.

Another exception is for railroad and postal employees. Those who have worked ten or more years without interruption get 20% of the wages they received in their last five working years plus 2% of what they got in the other years — up to a maximum of 70% of their former monthly earnings. This means a pension varying from 150 to 800 marks.

Another special category is for people who were persecuted by the nazis for political or racial reasons. For them, retirement age is 55 for women and 60 for men, and they receive the pensions even if they never paid contributions to the social security fund. Their pensions vary from a minimum of 259 marks to a maximum of 459 marks — equivalent to pensions of highly-skilled workers, and these pensions are granted to all members of the family of the victims of persecution.

A final category applies to certain professions especially vital to the GDR economy — doctors, teachers, certain kinds of engineers and technicians, etc. These groups receive a double pension — both from the Social Insurance Fund and from the German Insurance Association, the latter based on the salary they received in their last working year.

* * *

To augment their pensions, a very large number of pensioners in the GDR continue working, for unlike many western countries, they do not sacrifice any of their pension, no matter what they earn. In fact, enterprises in the GDR are officially directed to make jobs available to the pensioners — especially lighter work or part-time jobs. There is never a shortage of opportunities for pensioners wishing to earn extra money and contribute to the country's economic development.

Two thirds of GDR pensioners are women — partly because of the casualties of two world wars, and partly because of women's greater longevity. Many of these women stay with their grown children and help in the household or with their grandchildren. But the war and the division of Germany has also left very many pensioners completely alone in the world, and there is therefore a constant serious problem that many pensioners feel lonely, useless and unwanted.

The GDR organisation which deals with these problems is the "Volkssolidaritaet" (People's Solidarity), which has 1,400,000 contributing members and a host of supporters. It is also given regular government financial support.

The "Volkssolidaritaet" committees, one or more of which are in every town, have regular paid employees who lend a helping hand to pensioners when they are ill or confined to their homes. The organisation also runs the so-called "Veterans' Clubs" — the main way to break through the isolation of many old-timers. (Veterans does not refer to war service but only to age). There are at present 222 such clubs, with 43 more planned this year. Each club has a lunchroom, a clubroom, a gameroom, a library and a TV set, and is led by a full-time clubleader. Tens of millions of marks are spent to install and run these clubs every year.

Most clubs are open from 11:00 in the morning till 7:00 or later in the evening. They are equipped to serve 60 meals a day, at the ridiculously

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low price of 30 pfennigs; yet the payment makes it clear that the meals are not handouts. If too many want these meals, a monthly rotation system is used. Tea and coffee are also available at the clubs well below cost.

The clubs arrange lectures, discussions with writers and travellers, as well as musical evenings, choruses and, frequently, entertainment by children from nearby schools. "Skat" — Germany's national card-game — is also a club mainstay. On the advice of medical experts, it was made possible for the members to do light jobs for a few hours on a voluntary basis, with the proceeds going towards trips and excursions or whatever else the members wished. They also take care of running their own library, cloakroom and other services.

For pensioners unable to manage a household on their own, or who live in especially bad housing conditions, there are the coveted old-age homes, run by the Ministry of Health. There are long waiting lists for many of the homes, for everything has been done to make them as pleasant and attractive as possible, with balconies, green plants, cosy dining rooms, and, wherever possible, central heating and running water in the rooms, which are usually kept down to a limit of two occupants each. The homes also have libraries, TV sets, gardens and other facilities, and usually contain a maximum of 120 to 200 occupants, so that a homey atmosphere is possible, and most of the pensioners are not too far from their old neighbourhoods, where they can go shopping, visit old friends or invite them to their rooms. As in the clubs, all kinds of entertainment are arranged in the evenings — from medical lectures to dances and celebrations. As for medical care, both the old age home residents and all other pensioners in the GDR get full medical care, including medicines, hospital treatment and other expenses, at absolutely no cost.

Residents in old age homes pay 69 marks a month; what remains of their pension can be spent on anything they wish.

In addition to these homes, there are special institutions for incapacitated pensioners who cannot get around without help. In such homes, which have larger rooms, there is a nurse for every six or eight inmates and constant medical supervision. Here, too, everything possible is done to make life pleasant and interesting for the pensioners. These homes cost 84 marks a month, but in all cases, the old-timers are guaranteed a minimum of 48 marks for pocket money.

All these homes and clubs are heavily subsidised by the government, of course; indeed, the GDR honours its older citizens and tries to make life easier for them in every way possible, keeping them in contact with life around them if at all possible, so that they do not sink into lonely isolation. Of course, the government is well aware that the pensions are much lower than it wishes; as soon as it is economically possible, it will once again raise pension rates so that old-timers will be able to enjoy their later years as pleasantly as they could wish.

Adenauer on Britain

"Adenauer told the leadership of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group that he feared that if Britain joined the Common market this would produce difficulties for (West) German agriculture, coal mining and textiles.

"Adenauer thought that the entry of the British islanders was at variance with the idea of a political union of the continental Europeans. He feared that there might be a British-French alliance at the cost of the other members of the European Community. In conclusion, Adenauer stated that the British might press for a settlement with the Soviet Union at the cost of the rest of the Community. He recalled in this connection the sensational visit paid by the British Premier to Moscow a few years ago."

("Die Welt", West Germany, August 22nd)

STATISTICS TELL STORIES

Comparison of the statistics published in West Germany and the German Democratic Republic throws much light on differences between the two German states. Here are some figures selected from recent official statistics.

. . . In the schools of the GDR there is one teacher for every 23 children. In West Germany the figure is one teacher to 31 children.

. . . For every 10,000 of the population, there are 65 students at universities and technical colleges; in West Germany the figure is 35.

. . . In the GDR 55% of all university students come from working class families. In West Germany the figure is 5%.

. . . Proportional to population, the GDR has three times as many technical students as West Germany; nine times as many students of agricultural sciences; over twice as many medical students; and seven times as many students training to be teachers.

. . . The budget figures for expenditure in the fields of health and culture are far higher in the GDR. Here are figures, in marks, for annual expenditure per head in the GDR in various sectors, with West German expenditures in brackets: health services 211 (43); youth and sport 39 (12); trade schools and universities 98 (26).

GDR Exhibits in Sao Paulo

Many thousands of Brazilians have had their first glimpse of products made in the German Democratic Republic at an industrial exhibition in Sao Paulo. The exhibition, already attended by well over 150,000 visitors, is the first GDR exhibition of its kind in Latin America.

Sportsmen Flock to GDR

Athletes and sportsmen from 27 different countries took part in important events in the German Democratic Republic on August 20th and the following days.

The individual international meets included the following:

1. European Swimming Championships in Leipzig.
2. European Women's Rowing Championships in East Berlin.
3. Motor-cycle World Championships on the Sachsenring Track.

At all these meets the only prominent nation missing was West Germany, which is increasingly "sending itself to Coventry" in the sports world by refusing to take part in international meets if they are held in the German Democratic Republic. West German sports officials made frantic efforts to organise a wide boycott of the various events, but finally discovered that they were alone in their boycott.

Participants in the European swimming championships included teams from Britain, Sweden and Spain. Britain, France and Holland were amongst the most successful competitors in the women's rowing championships; and in the world motor-cycle meet Irish, Rhodesian, Canadian and British riders took many places.

The swimming championships in Leipzig produced one new world record and nine new European records. In the men's contests the GDR placed second after the Soviet Union, and in the women's contests second after Holland.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"The Bulletin", weekly news-sheet in English published by the West German Press Office in Bonn should be well in the running for the 1962 Ananias Prize. On July 10th this paper stated:

"In the history textbooks of the Soviet Zone there is no mention whatsoever of Nazi persecution of the Jews. This aspect of German history is there referred to merely as the 'murder of anti-fascists'."

Apart from the snide formulation of the last sentence, inferring that murdering anti-fascists is somehow not as bad as murdering Jews, the West German statement that the nazi murder of the Jews is not mentioned in the schoolbooks of the German Democratic Republic is a downright lie.

Thorough Cover

I have been looking through history books used in various classes of the schools of the GDR. All of those which cover the Hitler period report at great length the crimes committed in the nazi era, including the massacre of the Jews; I have been unable to find any West German school history book which devotes anything like the same space to the subject.

Here are details of how the subject is dealt with in the history book "Neueste Zeit Teil II", the school history book used in senior schools in the GDR. The book devotes 1½ pages and one picture to the Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935, which formed the basis for the Jewish liquidation; 1½ pages and two pictures to the summary execution of Jews in eastern Europe and the heroic rising in the Warsaw Ghetto; and two pages with picture and map to the liquidations in the concentration camps. The book also reproduces a whole series of nazi documents, proving that nazi crimes were not isolated "atrocities" but planned policy; 5½ pages of these documents deal exclusively with the nazi "Final Solution of the Jewish Question".

Challenge

I challenge herewith the editors of the West German official "Bulletin" to quote one West German school history book which deals with the question with anything like the same thoroughness. There are many dozens of different West German school history books, and I have not the time to analyse them in detail. Let me just quote what the West German official trade union newspaper "Welt der Arbeit" had to say about the situation:

"There are even history books (in West German schools) which deal with the persecution of the Jews in only one line. The average lies between 8 lines and 15 lines." *("Welt der Arbeit", No 9, 1960).*

Louder or Faster?

"All rowed fast, but none so fast as stroke", famed lady novelist Ouida is alleged to have written in one of her books; and now something similar seems to be going on in the Soviet Union, if I am to believe "Mainstream" magazine of New York. In an otherwise very informative article on Soviet prisons in a recent issue, Phillip Bonosky stated: "He worked in the prison orchestra, and regularly overfulfilled his work norm by 180%".

What I want to know is whether the prisoner in question blows his trumpet 80% faster than the rest, or 80% louder. Over to you, Mr Bonosky.

(To forestall a flood of letters from well-read readers, let me say I am aware that the cute quotation from Ouida is not in fact to be found in any of her works; but it is a pity to spoil a good story.)

Kicked Upstairs

Did you know that the West German authorities originally refused to give a high military post to General Adolf Heusinger, the nazi general who today holds the post of Chairman of the Permanent Military Board of NATO?

When the West German Wehrmacht was being raised, a special Personnel Selection Board was set up to screen officers for "democratic reliability". The Board was very broad-minded about nazi affiliations, but even they found it hard to stomach Heusinger. The West German newspaper "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" reported on October 3rd 1955: "The Board has adopted the view that... Heusinger exposed himself too much during the Third Reich." This report was hastily denied by the West German Government, but a 1957 official survey entitled "German Rearmament and Atomic War", published in the USA by the Rand Corporation, stated categorically: "The Board declared Heusinger to be 'unsuitable to be Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces or Supreme Commander of the Army'."

So they kicked him upstairs and made him Chief of Staff of NATO.

Off-Side Figures

Statistics, and in particular useless statistics, have always fascinated me, so let me present you with a fine resounding figure: there has been a great upsurge in the playing of rugby football in the German Democratic Republic. Between 1960 and 1961 the number of people playing the game has increased by 72%.

The figure is, of course, not so imposing if you give it in real numbers and not percentages — the number of rugger players has gone up from 271 to 465, which scarcely makes it a mass sport. But this example just shows you what you can do with figures if you try.

I have gleaned this moderately useless statistic from the otherwise very useful "Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1962", a fat volume of nearly 700 pages which gives you thorough and reliable information on nearly every aspect of life in the German Democratic Republic, ranging from the incidence of disease to very detailed breakdowns of industrial production and wage rates. It is thoroughly to be recommended to people with a knowledge of German who are really interested in developments here. Your bookseller can probably order it for you through the GDR book export firm:

Deutscher Buch-Export und -Import
Leipzig C 1
Leninstrasse 16.

Careless Thought

The Reuter teleprinter on August 15th carried the following message:

"Washington, — Mr James Webb, head of NASA, said he believed the United States will land a man on the moon and return him before Russia does."

I don't think the Russians on the moon will return the American: they will give him a big welcome, for they will have been waiting for him for quite a long time ...

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III, Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.